

matter which is still "*sub-judice*." Arguments for and against these latter theories are given, and Dr. Simpson finally gives his own opinion in such a manner that one cannot but respect his judgment. The book deals with all the recognised endocrine disorders, giving their etiology, pathology, diagnosis, and treatment, and in many cases a short historical note is added. Many illustrations make the text more interesting. Menstrual disorders and obesity receive special consideration. At the end is given a list of the proprietary hormonal preparations, including their form, source, and strength, which should prove most useful. The introductory chapter is disappointing; in it an attempt is made to give the inter-relation of the various endocrines. This is the chapter which, when expanded in the future, will, to our mind, explain many of the endocrine disorders—disorders which in many cases we are only nibbling at as yet.

How often do we hear the diagnosis, "some endocrine dysfunction," and how often it ends there. We feel that Dr. Simpson has made a valiant attempt to put an end to this loose diagnosis by writing this book, which will, we feel sure, make a great appeal both to the general practitioner and the medical student.

**ADVICE TO THE EXPECTANT MOTHER.** By F. J. Browne, M.B., F.R.C.S.  
1938. Price 6d. net.

The fourth edition of "Advice to the Expectant Mother on the Care of Her Health" is notable for the inclusion of a detailed description of the very important matter of diet during and after pregnancy. With regard to this, it is unfortunate that the most essential articles of diet are, by their price, made prohibitive to those whose need of them is greatest. In England this lack can be made up by free supplies from the local health authorities, but here in Belfast, milk and medicines only can be obtained in this way. It is also very regrettable that the Medicines Act of 1937 does not apply to this Province.

The information in this booklet covers the ground thoroughly from the beginning of pregnancy to the early stages of breast-feeding, and includes preparation for confinement and instructions on the making of babies' clothes. But there is far too much stress laid on the possible disorders and complications of pregnancy, the symptoms and results of which are enlarged on to a degree quite unnecessary for this type of book. The knowledge of this can only create in the expectant mother a fear and apprehension which is wrong, entirely unnecessary, and exceedingly detrimental to her mental and physical well-being.

With the exclusion of the sections criticised, a book of this type would be a most valuable one for general distribution in communities where the infant and maternal mortality-rates are highest.

—"LAY MOTHER."

**A POCKET MEDICAL DICTIONARY.** By Lois Oakes. Third Edition.

**A NEW DICTIONARY FOR NURSES.** By the same. Fifth Edition.

Except for the title page and prefaces, these two handy little books are almost identical. Their usefulness has already been proved in practice, and these new editions will be welcome. In addition to the dictionary proper, which is illustrated with diagrams, there is much useful information in introductions and appendices—in poisons and antidotes, poison gases, diet in disease, and many others. A few minor improvements may be suggested for future editions: (1) The dictionary should not attempt to deal with *treatment*; scraps of information are dangerous and misleading. The entry under *measles* is here a case in point; it is quite out of place even to mention the serum treatment, still less to recommend it. (2) In the list of abbreviations of degrees, etc., surely the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland is as deserving of a place in a medical dictionary as the M.B.E. (3) On page XV the phrase *secundum artem* is translated "according to art." This is a bad case of *obscurum per obscurius*. The English is meaningless; the Latin means "according to the rules of the profession" (of pharmacy).